

## CLAIMS

1. A shape memory alloy having a low martensitic transformation temperature, said alloy comprising Copper and Zinc in the range of 62-86% of Copper and 10-28% of Zinc along with 6% of Aluminum.
- 5 2. A shape memory alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein said alloy having a martensitic transformation temperature lowered by about  $80^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
3. A shape memory alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein said alloy displays good shape memory at a re-betatising temperature of about  $575^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- 10 4. A shape memory alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein said alloy having good fatigue properties thereby preventing quench cracking.
5. A shape memory alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein said alloy once processed can be utilized for some other temperature device or application.
- 15 6. A shape memory alloy as claimed in claim 1, wherein said alloy having good shape memory response properties.
7. A process for lowering the Martensitic Transformation Temperature(As) of shape memory alloy as claimed in claim 1, by a re-betatising treatment of previously high temperature betatised material, said process comprising the following steps of:
  - (i) selecting an alloy comprising Copper and Zinc in the range of 62-86% of Copper and 10-28% of Zinc along with 6% of Aluminum;
  - 20 (ii) melting alloy composition in an induction furnace operating in air under charcoal cover followed by casting into desired shapes;
  - (iii) homogenizing the above composition at  $800^{\circ}\text{C}$  for a period of about two hours followed by cooling;
  - (iv) surface machining for removing oxide scale formation;
  - 25 (v) analyzing the alloy composition
  - (vi) re-heating the shaped material at about  $575^{\circ}\text{C}$  for about three minutes;
  - (vii) quenching said material with cold water;
  - (viii) obtaining a fully martensitic structure;
  - (ix) identifying the soft shape memory material with martensitic structure; and
  - 30 (x) recording the temperature and structure of the material;

8. A process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the martensitic transformation temperature (As) is lowered by about 80<sup>0</sup>C.

9. A process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the loss of Zinc or Aluminum raises the martensitic transformation temperature whereas increase of these elements 5 lowers the transformation temperature.

10. A process as claimed in claim 7, wherein material once cast and processed can be utilized for some other temperature device or application.

11. A process as claimed in claim 7, wherein shape memory response properties are not affected.

10 12. A process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the two-step betatising and resultant lowering of transformation temperature is valid for higher Aluminum content of 6-10 % shape memory alloys.